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(b) if the answer be in the affirmative, whether it is proposed to be constructed jointly by the District Boards of Ramnad and Tinnevelly or by a private body?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The matter is in the hands of the Railway Board. The District Boards of Tinnevelly and Ramnad have declared their inability to construct the line.

Mr. P. K. S. A. Arumuga Nadar:—"With regard to (a), may I know at what stage the matter stands?"

The hon. Sir Arthur Knapp:—"It stands exactly as stated in the answer. The Government have recommended it to the Railway Board."

Third-class passengers' shed in the Nandyal railway station.

228 Q.—Mr. K. Sarabha Reddi: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware that the third-class passengers' shed in the Nandyal railway station is far away from the booking office; and

(b) if so, whether the Government will consider the desirability of providing for one close to the booking office?

A.—(a) The Government have no information.

(b) The matter is not one which is under the control of the Local Government.

Railway freight on grains.

229 Q.—Mr. Muhammad Musa Sait: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway and South Indian Railway (the feeding Railway of Madras) have increased their freight rates on grains;

(b) if so, on what ground;

(c) the percentage of increase as compared with the years of 1911 and 1912?

A.—The Government have no information.

Khan Bahadur Khalif-ul-lah Sahib:—"Will the Government be pleased to call for the information?"

The hon. Sir Arthur Knapp:—"I am afraid I cannot undertake to do that. It has been pointed out on more than one occasion that the local Government have no control over the Railways. The Railways are under the Government of India and any question connected with the management of railways ought to be addressed to the Government of India in the Legislative Assembly or the other House."

Transport of grain.

230 Q.—Mr. Muhammad Musa Sait: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state the volume of traffic in grain carried to and from Madras,